

Exhibit A. AFFIRMATIONS AND SOLICITATION ACCEPTANCE

Respondent affirms, without exception, as follows:

1. Respondent represents and warrants that all certifications, representations, warranties, and other provisions in this Affirmations and Solicitation Acceptance apply to Respondent and all of Respondent's principals, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, owners, agents, employees, subcontractors, independent contractors, and any other representatives who may provide services under, who have a financial interest in, or otherwise are interested in this Solicitation or any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
2. Respondent represents and warrants that all statements and information provided to HHSC are current, complete, and accurate. This includes all statements and information in this Solicitation Response.
3. Respondent acknowledges that its Solicitation Response and subsequent documents submitted are subject to the Texas Public Information Act.
4. Respondent acknowledges its obligation to specifically identify information it contends to be confidential or proprietary and, if Respondent designated substantial portions of its Solicitation Response or its entire Solicitation Response as confidential or proprietary, the Solicitation Response is subject to being disqualified.
5. Respondent's Solicitation Response will remain a firm and binding offer for 240 days from the date the Solicitation Response is due.
6. Respondent accepts the Solicitation terms and conditions unless specifically noted by exceptions advanced in the form and manner directed in the Solicitation. Respondent agrees that all exceptions to the Solicitation are rejected unless expressly accepted by HHSC.
7. Respondent agrees that HHSC has the right to use, produce, and distribute copies of and to disclose to HHSC employees, agents, and contractors and other governmental entities all or part of Respondent's Solicitation Response as HHSC deems necessary to complete the procurement process or comply with state or federal laws.
8. Respondent generally releases from liability and waives all claims against any party providing information about the Respondent at the request of HHSC.
9. Respondent acknowledges all addenda and amendments to the Solicitation.
10. Respondent represents and warrants that if a Texas address is shown as the address of Respondent, Respondent qualifies as a Texas Bidder as defined by 34 Texas Administrative Code §20.32(68).
11. Respondent represents and warrants that it qualifies for all preferences claimed under 34 Texas Administrative Code §20.38 or Chapter 2155, Subchapter H of the Texas Government Code as indicated below (check applicable boxes):
 - ☐ Goods produced or offered by a Texas bidder that is owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
 - ☐ Goods produced in Texas or offered by a Texas bidder that is not owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
 - ☐ Agricultural products grown in Texas
 - ☐ Agricultural products offered by a Texas bidder

- ☐ Services offered by a Texas bidder that is owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
 - ☐ Services offered by a Texas bidder that is not owned by a Texas resident service-disabled veteran
 - ☐ Texas Vegetation Native to the Region
 - ☐ USA produced supplies, materials or equipment
 - ☐ Products of persons with mental or physical disabilities
 - ☐ Products made of recycled, remanufactured, or environmentally sensitive materials including recycled steel
 - ☐ Energy Efficient Products
 - ☐ Rubberized asphalt paving material
 - ☐ Recycled motor oil and lubricants
 - ☐ Products produced at facilities located on formerly contaminated property
 - ☐ Products and services from economically depressed or blighted areas
 - ☐ Vendors that meet or exceed air quality standards
 - ☐ Recycled or Reused Computer Equipment of Other Manufacturers
 - ☐ Foods of Higher Nutritional Value
 - ☐ Commercial production company or advertising agency located in Texas
12. Respondent has not given, has not offered to give, and does not intend to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with this Solicitation Response, this Solicitation, or any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
13. Under Section 2155.004, Texas Government Code (relating to financial participation in preparing solicitations), the vendor certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
14. Under Section 2155.006, Texas Government Code (relating to convictions and penalties regarding Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters), the vendor certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
15. Under Section 2261.053, Texas Government Code (relating to convictions and penalties regarding Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters), the contractor certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
16. Pursuant to Section 231.006(c), Texas Family Code (relating to delinquent child support), identify below the name and social security number (SSN) of each individual, sole proprietor, partner, shareholder, and owner with an ownership interest of at least 25 percent (25%) of the business entity submitting this Solicitation Response:
- Name: _____ SSN: _____
- Name: _____ SSN: _____

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Name: _____ SSN: _____

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: Disclosure of requested Social Security Numbers (SSNs) is required under Section 231.006(c) and Section 231.302(c)(2), Texas Family Code. The SSNs will be used to identify persons that may owe child support. The SSNs will be kept confidential to the fullest extent permitted by law. Failure by a Respondent to provide the required SSNs may result in disqualification of the Respondent's Solicitation Response.

17. Under Section 231.006, Texas Family Code, the vendor or applicant certifies that the individual or business entity named in this contract, bid, or application is not ineligible to receive the specified grant, loan, or payment and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
18. Respondent certifies that: (a) the entity executing this Solicitation Response; (b) its principals; (c) its subcontractors; and (d) any personnel designated to perform services related to any contract resulting from this Solicitation are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal Department or Agency. This certification is made pursuant to the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689, Debarment and Suspension, 2 C.F.R. Part 376, and any relevant regulations promulgated by the Department or Agency funding this project. This provision shall be included in its entirety in Contractor's Subcontracts if payment in whole or in part is from federal funds.
19. Respondent certifies that it, its principals, its subcontractors, and any personnel designated to perform services related to any contract resulting from this Solicitation are eligible to participate in this transaction and have not been subjected to suspension, debarment, or similar ineligibility determined by any federal, state, or local governmental entity.
20. Respondent certifies it is in compliance with all State of Texas statutes and rules relating to procurement; and that (a) the entity executing this Solicitation Response; (b) its principals; (c) its subcontractors; and (d) any personnel designated to perform services related to any contract resulting from this Solicitation are not listed on the federal government's terrorism watch list described in Executive Order 13224. Entities ineligible for federal procurement are listed at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>, which Respondent may review in making this certification.
21. In accordance with Texas Government Code Section 669.003 (relating to contracting with the executive head of a state agency), Respondent certifies that it (1) is not the executive head any HHS Agency; (2) was not at any time during the past four years the executive head of any HHS Agency; and (3) does not employ a current or former executive head of any HHS Agency.
22. Respondent represents and warrants that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171 of the Texas Tax Code.
23. Respondent represents and warrants that payments to Respondent and Respondent's receipt of appropriated or other funds under any contract resulting from this Solicitation are not prohibited by Sections 556.005, 556.0055, or 556.008 of the Texas Government Code (relating to use of appropriated money or state funds to employ or pay lobbyists, lobbying expenses, or influence legislation).
24. Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with Texas Government Code Section 2155.4441, relating to the purchase of products produced in the State of Texas under service contracts.

25. Pursuant to Section 2252.901, Texas Government Code (relating to prohibitions regarding contracts with and involving former and retired state agency employees), Respondent will not allow any former employee of an HHS Agency to perform services under any contract resulting from this Solicitation during the twelve (12) month period immediately following the employee's last date of employment an HHS Agency.
26. Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to Section 572.069 of the Texas Government Code, a former state officer or employee of an HHS Agency who during the period of state service or employment participated on behalf of an HHS Agency in a procurement or contract negotiation involving Respondent may not accept employment from respondent before the second anniversary of the date the officer's or employee's service or employment with an HHS Agency ceased.
27. Respondent represents and warrants that it has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in providing the requested goods or services to HHSC under this Solicitation and any resulting contract and that Respondent's provision of the requested goods and/or services under this Solicitation and any resulting contract would not reasonably create an appearance of impropriety
28. Respondent understands that HHSC does not tolerate any type of fraud. The agencies' policy is to promote consistent, legal, and ethical organizational behavior by assigning responsibilities and providing guidelines to enforce controls. Violations of law, agency policies, or standards of ethical conduct will be investigated, and appropriate actions will be taken. All employees or contractors who suspect fraud, waste or abuse (including employee misconduct that would constitute fraud, waste, or abuse) are required to immediately report the questionable activity to both the Health and Human Services Commission's Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-436-6184 and the State Auditor's Office. Respondent agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and HHSC policies regarding fraud including, but not limited to, HHS Circular C-027.
29. Respondent represents and warrants that it has not violated state or federal antitrust laws and has not communicated its Solicitation response directly or indirectly to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Respondent hereby assigns to HHSC any claims for overcharges associated with any contract resulting from this Solicitation under 15 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.*, and Texas Business and Commerce Code § 15.01, *et seq.*
30. Respondent represents and warrants that it is not aware of and has received no notice of any court or governmental agency proceeding, investigation, or other action pending or threatened against Respondent or any of the individuals or entities included numbered paragraph 1 of this Affirmations and Solicitation Acceptance within the five (5) calendar years immediately preceding the submission of this Solicitation response that would or could impair Respondent's performance under any contract resulting from this Solicitation, relate to the contracted or similar goods or services, or otherwise be relevant to HHSCs consideration of entering into a contract. If Respondent is unable to make the preceding representation and warranty, then Respondent instead represents and warrants that it has provided to HHSC a complete, detailed disclosure of any such court or governmental agency proceeding, investigation, or other action that would or could impair Respondent's performance under a contract awarded as a result of this solicitation, relate to the contracted or similar goods or services, or otherwise be relevant to the HHSCs consideration of entering into a contract. In addition, Respondent represents and warrants that, if awarded a contract as a result of this Solicitation, Respondent shall notify HHSC in writing within five (5) business days of any changes to the representations or warranties in this clause and understands that failure to so timely

update HHSC shall constitute breach of contract and may result in immediate contract termination.

31. Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that any false representation or any failure to comply with a representation, warranty, or certification made by Respondent is subject to all civil and criminal consequences provided at law or in equity including, but not limited to, immediate termination of any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
32. Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with all applicable laws and maintain all permits and licenses required by applicable city, county, state, and federal rules, regulations, statutes, codes, and other laws that pertain to any contract resulting from this Solicitation.
33. Respondent represents and warrants that the individual signing this Solicitation response is authorized to sign on behalf of Respondent and to bind Respondent.

Authorized representative on behalf of Respondent must complete and sign the following:

Legal Name of Respondent: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date Signed

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Phone Number

Federal Employer Identification Number

Fax Number

DUNS Number

Email Address

Physical Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Mailing Address, if different

City, State, Zip Code

